

## PIRATE RADIO OPERATIONS

by Andrew Yoder & Earl T. Gray

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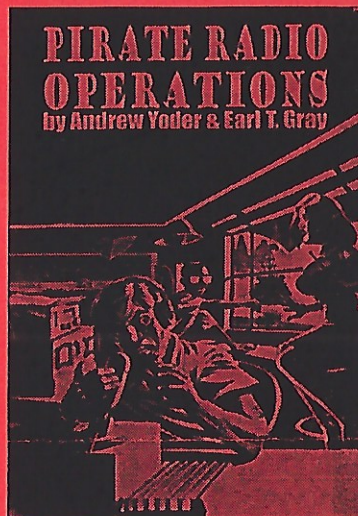
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SWEDEN

*The Santa Claus Overdrive*

QSL-card of the spoof station "The Santa Claus Overdrive" which was on the air last Christmas. Will Santa be back for this Christmas again or will he single out Jenny McCarthy?



## PIRATE CONNECTION

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*This magazine focuses on landbased Free Radio in Europe and offshore. The material published is entirely dependent on our reader's contributions and we therefore invite everyone to send in stories or news from the wonderful world of Free Radio. Regular contributors will receive this publication free of charge.*

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By Stefan Printz

# Editorial

Hello fellows and welcome back to yet another exciting issue of Pirate Connection! I'm deeply sorry about the fact that this issue is heavily delayed, but I hope you're not too disappointed and I certainly hope you will continue supporting this mag with your different contributions. Reasons are many and mostly on a personal level and I will spare you the boring details. I realise that things with PC must improve, especially after the recent closure of the prominent colleague magazine **FRS Goes DX** (read more about this in 'On the Market'). This now leaves Pirate Connection alone as the only English-speaking mag with focus on the landbased Free Radio scene. Now, this only increases the necessity to put even greater efforts into providing a quality Free Radio publication which satisfies most needs. And don't ever forget: this publication is solely dependent on contributions from our readers. Without your contributions, there will be no publication. In fact, one of the reasons for the delay this time was due to lack of material, which in turn affects the number of issues published a year. As a consequence, we'll now go on a irregular publishing basis and keep you up-to-date with deadlines and other information on the Pirate Connection e-mail distribution list. If you're not on this list and would like to receive this information, just send an e-mail to me at stpr@enea.se. There will also be continuous information on the PC Web site. New, polished-up Web pages will be available at the beginning of 1998, so please do take a look at <http://www.lls.se/jal/pc>.

Unfortunately, our intention of establishing Pirate Connection in the US and create a co-operative link across the big pond failed. After just a few months' operation of the Missouri box

address, I lost the contact with **Rob Keeney**, operator of the box. And just recently, I found out that he hadn't forwarded any of the magazines I sent to him. Of course, these were meant to be sent out to the few regular US subscribers, stations and Free Radio listeners. This seems not to have been done, which explains why the response from the US was more or less none. I think we bit off more than we could chew and in the long run I think it would have failed anyway, mainly because of the low co-operation between the US and Euro pirate scenes. Our US editors also decided to stop writing for the mag, which leaves us with no reporters left and we haven't put any more effort into recruiting more people from the US. I guess it's better for US pirate DX-ers here in Europe to subscribe to mags like Free Radio Weekly, Pirate Pages and The ACE. The first two are available on the Internet.

I may sound a bit too pessimistic about things. After all, things are not that bad. We still have quite a few reliable and brilliant writers and especially I would like to mention Andy, Hans, Bjoern and Jonny for their outstanding contributions and indefatigable support. Also thanks to Steven for his report from this year's DX-camp in Merchweiler. I know there are more good writers out there, and my hope is to recruit some of these guys and make PC an even more exciting and comprehensive Free Radio mag.

Please note that we'll from now on keep a 100% feature-oriented profile, that is, the news column will be dropped. Reasons are threefold: we've found no-one to do the job, secondly the news tend to be rather old and out of news value at the time of publication and thirdly there are the weekly SRS News publication, which



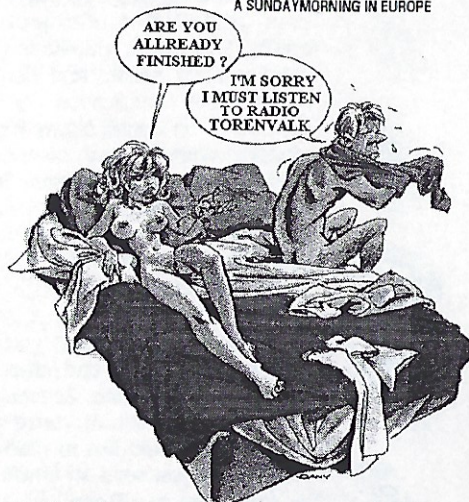
really fulfils the news bit. We should better concentrate on what we are good at, namely features, interviews, technical articles etc. I think most of you agree with me. If not, please feel free and write to me and reveal your feelings. All comments are highly welcome and taken into consideration.

Finally, I would like to comment the recent development on the 48 metre band. This band now tends to diverge into something that reminds of the situation on the 76 metre band. That is, lots of QSOs are taking up space on the band during normal broadcasting hours on a Sunday. The 76 metre band has, ever since the pioneer time in the beginning of this decade, been a mixture of QSOs and international broadcasting. This band has been a fantastic amendment to the Free Radio scene, now and then with just amazing reception conditions. So far, so good. The current situation on 48 metres, however, is quite worrying. More and more QSOs are taking place on this classical *broadcasting* band, which has existed for more than 30 years now. These stations occupy valuable time and are blocking stations who could have aired normal programming which certainly would have attracted more listeners. QSOs tend to scare people off from listening if those activities get too many. Since I know there are quite many operators reading this mag, I would like to ask you to take more care on the 48 metre band and restrict the use of 48 metres as a band for QSOs. If you necessarily have to carry out QSOs there, please wait until later in the afternoon when activities are less and most listeners have stopped listening.

Secondly, there is another problem which is personified by the Dutch station **Farmers From Holland**. They use 6300 kHz on top of the 48 metre band, but the splatters may at worst go down to as low as 6250 kHz. This means that they more or less occupy half of the band with their huge 10 kW Collins transmitter. We therefore urge this station to go a further bit up in frequency and also reduce the power by a number of

factors! There are already a few stations which are fed up with the situation and declared their closure or waiting for better times to come. One of the stations that decided to stop after 20 years' operation was **Radio Torenvall**, merely as a protest to the current state of Free Radio. He mentions lack of listener response, lack of real interest into the programmes (people are just writing in to get the QSL), more power is needed nowadays, some of the bands are dominated by QSOs and "drunk-shouting" which has nothing to do with Free Radio, and lastly he points at the recent hoaxes and fool-making of other stations. Even though Torenvall actually will not close down for good, this is a flag of warning. We really have to deal with this situation and not take for granted that Free Radio will live on in the future (what a dreadful thought that would be...).

A SUNDAYMORNING IN EUROPE



I think the key-words are co-operation and information. To solve the situation, we need to make bridge between the human barriers and, determined but politely, inform people about conventional "rules" in the Free Radio scene and keep the debate ongoing. Hopefully that could make things better. And my hope is that Pirate Connection could be one instrument in order to bring peace back to the 48 metre band. Lastly a final finally, Merry Christmas everyone!

Stefan

# Things Change

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Do you believe in progress? As time goes by, things change, that's for sure. But do they also improve? If you compare Free Radio nowadays with what it was like some ten years ago, the difference is obvious. To me the most important progress is the use of the Internet. A fast and inexpensive media to exchange logs and news within minutes, even to be informed about broadcasts in advance, that was a dream of the 80s. The scene has become better informed, email and World Wide Web have helped a lot linking European and US Free Radio.

At least in Germany the number of stations active has gone up year by year. The dramatic increase of Dutch pirates on 76 metres recently proves that there is more activity than ever before. But is there also more to listen to?

Many friends have said to me that there is not a lot going on in Free Radio these days. I'm afraid I have to agree. Ten years ago, the majority of stations made sure that their aim is to provide some sort of alternative programme, something not to be found anywhere else. Perhaps what they put out was not as alternative as they claimed but at least they tried to put out proper programmes. Today, most "free" radio stations have forgotten that tradition, apparently.

Of course, you can't tell stations to stop QSOing if they enjoy that. After all, this is Free Radio, isn't it? But it's surprising that listeners hardly complain about stations talking to other stations, and not to them. Perhaps they just switch off their receivers. Or they are happy to hear anything at all.

For a long time the pirates' biggest problem was supposed to be the postal authorities. Again, things have changed. The biggest problem nowadays is the lack of content, the lack of ideas. Such a pity that so few stations try to find their own style of programme, or at least learn to operate a studio properly, how to use jingles, cue records in time etc.

To sum it up, it would help a lot if stations would care more about their audience, not just by giving away new QSLs after every broadcast. In the first place, the people who tune in are *listeners*.

Radio can be a very fascinating media. I can't imagine that station operators will find it satisfying playing around with no ambition for months and years. But I might be wrong. If you, the listener, pick up a station that bores you to death, tell it! Otherwise, you'll just get the stations you deserve. So do something. Things may change. Things could improve.

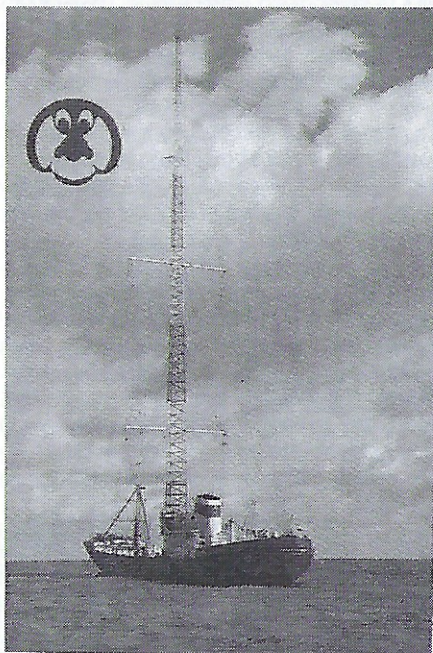
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# Three men on a radio ship

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It was just a few minutes before midnight on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September 1993, when we pulled up outside the gatehouse of the Granville Dock in Dover. As we drove around the harbour we could see the beckoning lights of the M.V. Ross Revenge. It had been a six-hour drive to reach the radio ship and we were both very tired and more than ready for a cup of tea as we climbed the gangplank to the deck. After our tea we unpacked our gear into our cabins. On board the Ross at the time of our arrival was **Steve Masters, Simon Cowper-Smith, John (24 DC) Doughnut and John.**



*Ross Revenge.*

The next day was an average workday and Simon filled me in on what had been happening while I had been away. The two Johns departed at 14.00 and Doughnut some time after. Simon asked my brother if he was

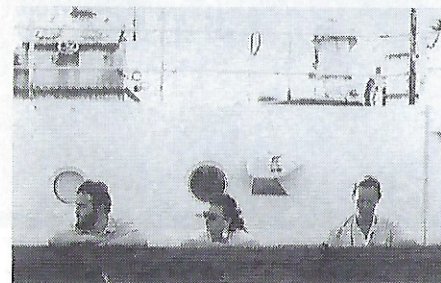
staying. He answered saying he was probably going home. Simon gave me the keys saying Ernie would arrive some time next afternoon. Simon and Steve left the M.V. Ross Revenge at about 23.00. Later my brother decided to stay to meet Ernie again. The next day at 14.00 Ernie arrived and after a long chat about the old days on the high sea and a cup of tea, Ernie unpacked his gear and then we had dinner and planned our work for the next day.

First thing the next morning Ernie, Keith and I set about finding the deadlights that were not in position and freeing the ones that had rusted up. Covers were made and Ernie and myself fitted them over all the vents. Later that day Howard Beer arrived to help us haul the new anchor and 550 feet of chain on board. The next day was very wet as Howard, Keith and myself inspected the anchor, which was sitting on top of the chain. A lot of grunting and heaving was needed to move the two ton anchor off the chain, only to find the lengths of chain were in knots. Eventually they were removed and the lengths joined together. Keith and I went down into the anchor locker, while Ernie and Howard lowered a rope which was tied to the bit of anchor chain that was left. Using the windlass Ernie winched the old chain on to the fo'c's'le. Something that could not have been done till the day before when Ernie, Keith and myself had spent the afternoon unfreeing this unit. The old chain was lowered over the side on to the land and the new chain and anchor were joined to it. Then it was hauled on to the ship, Howard guided the chain in. Keith and myself were very busy in the chain locker laying out the chain and preventing it from mounding up and getting jammed. While the anchor was still on the quayside, Howard, Keith and I put a rope around the anchor and pulled so that when Ernie pulled it on the winch it did not hit the side of the ship.

The next day Ernie and Howard set to work on getting the main engine started. Keith and I started tank topping in the transmitter room and then the fo'c's'le where a tank had to be emptied. That went down three levels to the bottom of the ship. I had to go down two ladders and to reach the bottom I had to climb down the sides of the ship because there was no ladder down there. Ernie and Howard had the main engine running. Then it was time for dinner and retire for the day.

The next day Howard was away, which just left the three of us again. Keith and I continued tank topping in the engine room. At the aft of the engine room there are four cod-liver oil tanks. That we tackled one by one now knowing what was left in these tanks, when we were slackening the nuts on the first tank we found out. Old cod-liver oil, gallons of the stuff, eventually we got the top off and I climbed into the tank to have a look. There were great big balls of congealed cod-liver oil floating in the liquid. The tank had not been opened for twenty years or so, you can imagine the smell we were working in.

In the fo'c's'le on the port side, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor down at the aft of the room which housed the anchor lockers is a very small trapdoor which Keith and I could only just manage to squeeze through. Down there in the void between the tanks there is no room to stand up being only about 3 ft. 6 ins. high and only just enough room for two people to squeeze into.



*Steve Conway (left), Jackie Lee (middle) and Kevin Turner onboard the Ross Revenge.*

Keith and myself spent three days there cutting the bolts cut due to them being rusted solid. With only an electric bulb on the end of a wire, using a disc cutter to cut the bolts carefully out not knowing whether the tanks were empty or full. Eventually water started to squirt out. We quickly replaced the bolts we had cut out with new ones. From then on we cut out a bolt and replaced it. Eventually we had replaced all of them. Then we loosened them and got out as fast as we could also removing the power cables. The water was pumped out overnight. Then Keith and I would return to start all over again.

**MAGIC**  
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The next day Ernie and Keith moved the command lights from on top of the monkey island to the top of the funnel. Meanwhile I was busy mixing some concrete to seal around the anchor chains. This was done by ramming some old rag around the anchor chain in the mouths of the anchor chain tubes, and then sealing it up with concrete. This was a necessary requirement for the Department of Transport.

At the end of the day Ernie left the M.V. Ross Revenge bound for home. Keith and myself did likewise with a date set for the three of us to return for another assault on the work list.



# The Dutch Viking

- a report from Torenvalk's visit to Sweden

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I expected Hans and his wife Angela to arrive at Trelleborg harbour at 4pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, but at 6pm in the evening there were still no signs of life from the two long-distance travellers. We had agreed that Hans would make a call from either the ship or at the arrival, and then I would just have a 40 minutes drive from Malmö down to Trelleborg. Well, there was a strange phone-call around 1pm with some whispering voices, and I shouted "Is that you Hans?" back to the caller. But there was no response at all. Later we found out that my voice simply had not reached to their side while I could hear them discussing on how they should maneuver that telephone box aboard the ship. The reason why I was worried about their delay was due to the fact that I had booked a dinner at a cosy house on the countryside at 7pm. To my big relief, they finally arrived at 6.30pm and called me from Trelleborg immediately.

## A pirate's paradise

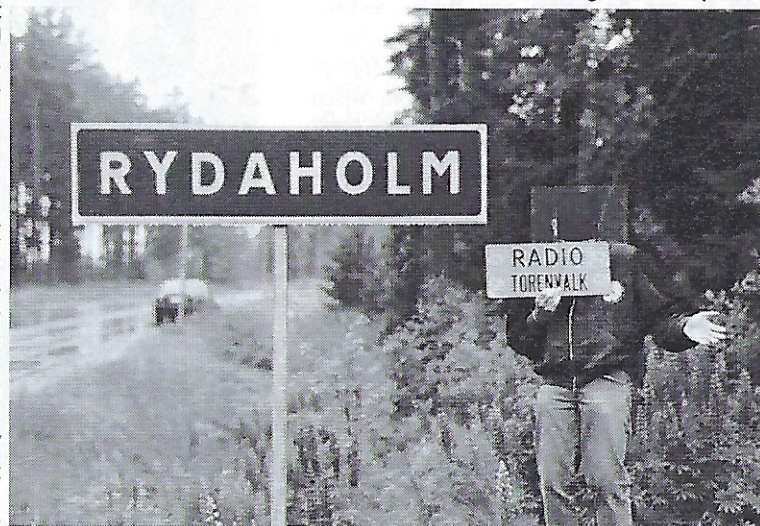
Off I went and I met an exhaustive 18-hours travelling couple at the Shell gas station. Hans, was dressed in a shocking-blue "Three Crowns" Sweden T-shirt. It was only the Viking helmet that was missing to make the whole set complete! Eventually he and his lovely girlfriend had arrived at the country of woods and lots of empty spots. Hans often jokes

about moving to Sweden because of the over-crowded state in his own native country.

- There are lots of space for aerials and hardly no risk of getting caught - it must be a pirate's paradise, Hans once said to me. Maybe he'll become a real Viking one day, I wouldn't be surprised!

## Welcome dinner

I more or less forced Hans and Angela (sorry guys!) to come straight with me to the dinner. We were already a bit late. We enjoyed a rather nice, relaxing dinner and despite the tired eyes, both Hans and Angela seemed to enjoy it. It was quite a shame that the weather was so bad at the time, because I had also planned a nice walk down to the beach. But we later agreed to skip this



*Hans, the well-known DJ and operator of Radio Torenvalk, entering the small village Rydaholm in the province of Småland, where I once grew up.*

and went further on to my apartment in Malmö.

## A technician and a master of design

Hans had brought two remarkable presents to me. First, I got a pair of yellow-colored clogs with a "Radio Torenvalk" label on it. Then, the real big surprise: a loop for 76 metres and mediumwave with in-built noise-reduction! And it worked really great. I had actually given up any reception at all in the middle of Malmö city, but now, all of a sudden, we could hear stations like **Radio Dr. Tim** and **Radio Shadow Man** in the evening on the 76 metre band! "From no reception to satisfying reception - quite an improvement!" Hans said with a big smile. It should also be said that the loop is more than just an antenna - it's a pure piece of art as well! Really nice looking and again he lived up to his reputation of being one of the most prominent technicians and designers in the world of Free Radio.

## Round the Sound

Friday morning we went up quite early in the morning to make the rather popular "Round the Sound" tour, which is a trip by boat and train around the sea between Sweden and Denmark. Starting off from the harbour of Malmö - just a one-minute walk from my apartment - the catamaran took us to Copenhagen. First we spent some time shopping along the famous street "Strøget". Hans was eagerly trying to find a copy of some Icelandic rock music (as you may know, Hans is famous for being attracted to the unusual and different...), but failed to do so and instead he bought himself one or two records of Danish hip-hop and rap music! After the shopping was done, we went to the National Museum and saw some really interesting exhibitions on the Nordic Bronze Age, the Viking era and the Persian culture. Then we had a much longed-for dinner in one of the many restaurants at Strøget, before continuing our journey by train up to Hellerup, where we paid a visit to the so-

called "Experimentarium". This is more or less a technical museum for children where they can discover different phenomena in physics, chemistry, acoustics, chaos theory etc. Of course, for such a confirmed technical expert as Hans, his joy was as a child's on Christmas time...

The time was now late in the afternoon and there was no time left for any more excursions, so we had to skip our planned travel to Humlebæk and the modern art museum "Louisiana" a bit further up north. Instead, we travelled directly all the way up to Helsingør and by boat straight over to Sweden again. Luckily, we were just in time for a local train from Helsingborg taking us back to Malmö city. The day was rounded off by a delicious evening dinner at the "Steakhouse", a nice and cosy restaurant at the Little Square (Lilla Torg).

## An exciting visit to Småland

Saturday wasn't less hectic than the previous day. Again, we got up quite early in the morning and then making a 200 km drive up to the province of Småland and the small village Rydaholm where Stefan's parents live. There, we also met the Swedish DX-er **Thomas Reintam** who had driven no less than 400 km from his home in Eskilstuna, 100 km west of Stockholm, to visit me and Hans this day. Thomas has been a dedicated Free Radio DX-er for almost 20 years and I have just met him briefly before, so it was really nice of him to show up. My mother had arranged a dinner for us when we came and we had a convivial time together. After the dinner (thanks, ma!) we went to one of Sweden's most interesting car museum which actually is just on the outskirts of Rydaholm. Here you'll find many rare cars such as Delin, Rolls Royce, Austin and Bentley. Just to mention the value of these cars, I can tell you that the sports car from Bentley is from 1931 and has a top speed of 160 km/h. Five years ago, the museum's owner (Ingemar Ahlquist) was offered 6,000,000 SEK for this "pearl" (appr. £600,000 or \$800,000)! The museum also



has other exhibitions, such as old toys and music instruments. And...new for this year was, to Hans great delight, ...yes...a collection of old tube radios, microphones, valves etc.! Then there was a flea market where Hans bought an extremely good copy of a 60 year old Swedish technical radio magazine, it was almost like brand-new. Hans' eyes were shining like a diamond and could hardly believe he would found such a place in the "middle of nowhere" in Sweden.

### At Jolly Jake's secret location

We were now in a little bit of a hurry, because we had another long journey to make, another few hundred kilometres further up in Sweden to the QTH of **Radio Fusion International**. It's a well-hidden place on the countryside with some beautiful scenery. Operator Jolly Jake was very delighted to see us and immediately showed us to his studio and the huge 200 W transmitter.



Operator Jolly Jake in front of the impressive 200 W transmitter shack. This Christmas, Fusion will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> birthday with a special broadcast on 48 metres.

Hans was really impressed by the location and endless space, and wished he had such a place of his own. A moment later the transmitter was switched on and some "fusion" music was hitting into the 48 metre band. We called Hans' friend Jos of **Radio Tonair** to find out if he could receive the signal, but unfortunately he wasn't able to switch on his radio set as he was busy with some other things. Of course, we took some

photos from this nice site and above you can see one of them. Thanks Jake for letting us paying you a visit! He said we were the first ones ever to visit his secret location.



Hans' wife Angela, also known as the DJ behind **Radio The Rising Star**, checks the activity on the Free Radio bands.

This hectic but indeed memorable visit by Hans and his girl-friend had now come to an inevitable end. We drove back all the way to Malmö and got some sleep, before we took off early Sunday morning to Trelleborg harbour. There my Dutch friends said a good-bye for this time, but we promised ourselves we would meet again in the not too distant future. If not for any other reason, I believe Hans's Viking spirit will take him to Scandinavia many more times to come.



# Learning Dutch

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THE NETHERLANDS

Many foreigners find Dutch a difficult language and since the majority of the Dutch people can very well understand either English or German, they don't bother learning it.

If you are nevertheless interested in learning some Dutch, listening to Free Radio may help you, because very often the same lines

are used by Dutch Free Radio operators. The following guide giving you the 30 most used lines may help you.

Remember to keep this guide next to your transmitter and next time you hear all those Dutch stations you will understand what they are chatting about!

Dutch	English	German
Hallo, test een, twee!	Hallo, testing one, two!	Hallo, test einz, zwei!
Op de band is Radio...	This is Radio...	Hier ist Radio...
U luistert naar...	You're listening to...	Sie hören...
Luisteraars en amateurs!	Listeners and amateurs!	Zuhörer und Amateurfunker!
Ik hoop dat de ontvangst goed is.	I hope the reception is good.	Ich hoffe der Empfang ist gut.
En die roept en vraagt om verbinding!	CQ!	Ich rufe um Verbindung.
De modulatie is te zacht.	The modulation is too weak.	Die Modulation ist zu schwach.
De modulatie is te hard.	The modulation is too loud.	Die Modulation ist zu kräftig.
De spraak is goed.	The voice sounds OK.	Die Sprache ist gut.
De spraak is slecht.	The voice sounds bad.	Die Sprache ist schlecht.
Je komt goed binnen.	I can hear you well.	Ich kann Sie gut verstehen.
Ik vraag om rapport.	CQ!	Ich rufe um Verbindung.
De ontvangst was goed.	Reception was good.	Der Empfang war gut.
Amateurs, kom op de band!	Amateurs, switch on your TX!	Amateurs bitte einschalten!
KOM OP DE BAND	The name of a certain station	Die Name eines gewissen Senders
Ik kom niet meer retour.	I will not return.	Ich komme nicht wieder
Dit was Radio.	This was Radio...	Hier was Radio...
Bedankt voor het rapport.	Thanks for the reception report.	Vielen Dank für ihren Bericht.
En daar komt de plaat.	Here comes the record.	Hier kommt die Schallplatte.
En die gaat de ronde in voor...	The record is played for...	Sie wird gespielt für...
De groeten.	Greetings.	Schöne Grüße.
Toedeloel!	Goodbye!	Auf widersehen!
Hallo Dokter Tim!	Hello Doctor Tim!	Hallo Dokter Tim!
Bel maar even naar de studio.	You can call the studio.	Sie können anrufen.
Komt de plaat in vlot tempo.	Here comes the record quickly.	Hier kommt die Platter schnellstens.
De afstemming is honderd procent.	Your signal is 100%.	Ihr Signal ist 100%.
De afstemming is volle bak.	Your signal is 100%.	Ihr Signal ist 100%.
Ha ha haaaa!	Ha ha haaaa!	Ha ha haaa!
Ik zit aan de band met klein vermogen.	I'm using a low-powered TX.	Ich fahr nur kleine Leistung.
Daar komt Theo Brouwer!	I'm being raided!	Ich werde ausgehoben!





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**Access to the Airwaves** is Alan Weiner's autobiographical account as told to Anita Louise McCormick. This is the story on his life and enthusiasm into the Free Radio hobby, which ultimately materialised **Radio New York International** and other Free Radio operations. It also reflects on FCC's evil methods in order to destroy Alan's life. The book can be obtained for \$17.95 at Loompanics Unlimited, P.O. Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368, USA.

**Free Radio Info** is the number one German mag for landbased pirate station information. All comes out in a handy A5-format with news and stories in the German language. A sample copy is yours for 5 DM or 3 IRCs at P.O. Box 520112, 44207 Dortmund, Germany.

**Free Radio Weekly** is an e-mail based news bulletin and not available on printed paper. The newsletter concentrates on logs and news from the American pirate scene and can be obtained, free of charge, by writing to any of the editors Chris Lobdell, lobdell@tiac.net or Niel Wolfish, niel@ican.net.

The big news this time is the sudden closure of **FRS Goes DX** even though I guess it took few by surprise. Peter Verbruggen did most of the work in the mag and it all simply became too much for him in the end. However, this is not the end of the story. Peter continues with a bulletin called **FRS Newsletter** which was a pleasant surprise I must say when I first got it in my mailbox. It's just as informative as **FRS Goes DX** when it comes to news. The difference is that there is no articles, logs or other columns no more. Those of you who were **FRS Goes DX** subscribers, will receive the newsletter automatically, while others may write in and ask for subscription details. A couple of dollars or IRCs will get you a sample copy. Address: P.O. Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten, The Netherlands.

**Offshore Echo's** is the self-evident choice for the anorak and offshore enthusiasts. Packed with news (the little there is in the offshore field at the moment), interviews, flashbacks and pictures in convenient A5 format. A subscription is £19 for 5 issues. Address: P.O. Box 1514, London W7 2LL, United Kingdom. If you are a Swedish citizen, you can alternatively pay via FRC Sweden's postal giro account 64 60 67-9. The fee is SEK 225.

**Radio News** from Free Radio Campaign Germany is published twice a year. Here you'll find offshore news and nostalgia with plenty of photos on crews and ships. All is written in German and comes out in very high-quality offset printing A5 format. Sample copies are \$6, £4 or 9 DM. Order from Free Radio Campaign, P.O. Box 2209, 77612 Offenburg, Germany.

**Pirate Radio Operations** is a brand-new book published by the well-known US pirate DX-er **Andrew Yoder** and **Earl T. Gray**. This book is unique and I believe that the market has never seen such a complete, well-structured and informative publication before! This is in fact a pirate operator's cook-book and contains everything you need to know in order to start and run a pirate station. You'll also find lots of technical details, discussions of security and safety issues, presentations of some of the most popular and well-known US Free Radio stations, and much more. The book is \$19.95 and you'll also have to add extra for P&P. Address: Loompanics Unlimited, P.O. Box 1197, Port Townsend, Washington 98368, USA. Phone: 1-800-380-2230.

**SRS News** is the "must" bulletin for every serious Free Radio DX-er. It's published on a weekly basis and available on Internet, by fax or printed papers. For more details on subscriptions, write to Jonny Augustsson, Östra Porten 29, 442 54 Ytterby, Sweden. E-mail: srs@srs.pp.se. Web: www.ils.se/jal.

## ACCESS TO THE AIRWAVES

### My Fight for Free Radio

by Allan H. Weiner  
As told to Anita Louise McCormick

Allan H. Weiner has always believed that the airwaves are free, and that they rightfully belong to the people. Ever since his childhood, this gifted radio enthusiast has devoted his time and energy to the development of "pirate" radio broadcasting. The trials and tribulations that Weiner endured to bring Radio New York International and other pirate radio stations into being are legendary. The FCC's illegal seizure of Weiner's radio ship the *M/V Sarah* in 1987 made headline news around the world. The film *Pump Up the Volume* appeared to be loosely based on Weiner's teenage adventures, but failed to capture even a fraction of the dedication and intensity that this heroic free-speech advocate has brought to his endeavors throughout his life.

Weiner's story is both a heartwarming tale of an electronics genius at work and a chilling indictment of governmental disregard for personal liberties and free speech. Over the years, the FCC has targeted Weiner and done everything in its power to destroy his life. This bureaucratic agency, ostensibly created to facilitate citizens' access to radio and impartially regulate the use of its technology, has ruthlessly seized Weiner's property, drained his resources, denied him broadcasting licenses, black-balled and conspired against him within the radio broadcasting industry, and perpetrated an insidious vendetta against him. In spite of this, Weiner has persevered, and continues to work towards a future when the airwaves are open to all who choose to use them, and the world becomes a better place because of free transmission of knowledge.

**Access to the Airwaves: My Fight for Free Radio**, Weiner's autobiographical account as told to Anita Louise McCormick, is a powerful rendition that should be read by all who believe that speech should be unfettered, and that fighting the powers-that-be is an often-unheralded necessity. Allan H. Weiner is an inspiration to free-speech advocates in every corner of the globe, and his story deserves to be heard.

1997, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 264 pp, several photos, soft cover. \$17.95  
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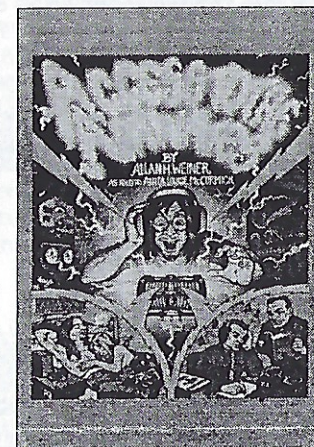
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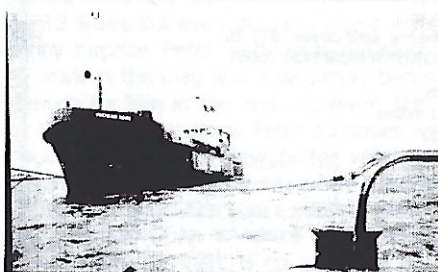


# The Radio London Revival

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The whole thing started as one big joke, but it turned out to be a great success. It was back in November of last year that **EAP** (East Anglia Productions) announced that it was planning to revive the old offshore radio station **Radio London** aboard a ship off the Essex coast during the summer of 1997 by applying for a restricted service licence for 28 days. The news started to go around the anorak world that various ships were being looked at for the project and the one to be used was a lightship, which was maintained by the Colchester Sea-scouts. It turned out the vessel could not be used because the river it was in was silted and it could not get out.

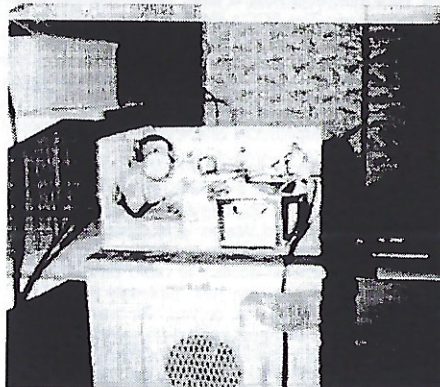
As the on air day drew nearer a ship called the **Yeoman Rose** was found at the Isle Of Sheppy in Kent and it was converted in to a radio ship in only three days. Former 60's **Caroline South** and SW pirate engineer **Alan Trainer** headed this quick and professional job. The ship could only sleep four people so two, six berth caravans were bought and put in the hold, plus twin aerial towers were erected and a professional transmitter was hired at the cost of £1000 for the month.



*Yeoman Rose.*

The station made it on the air on time on July 18<sup>th</sup> after sailing from Sheppy to an anchorage off of Walton-on-the-Naze on the Essex coast. The signal from the station was very good from day one but the hired

transmitter was not in use, instead a smaller unit and the former Offshore Radio 1584 rig was being used. This transmitter was home made by **Roger Davis**, former operator of 1970's land based pirate **East London Radio**. Constructed in 1991 and used in a field in Essex for the short lived pirate **Radio Carousel** before being used for the first legal offshore station in the summer of 92.



*The rig aboard Yeoman Rose.*

Over the first weekend the programming was dull and repetitive with only a handful of records being aired but this was much like the original Radio London who rotated the hits of the day, thirty years before. The presenters on the station were made up from ILR and BBC local radio plus a few of the original voices of the station, notably **Mark Roman** who did the 3-6 spot, like he did in the 60's, for the full 28-days the ship was on the air. Other original voices who did token shows on Radio London were **Dave Cash**, **Duncan Johnson** and **Keith Sukes**, but these were a one-off. The station itself was on big advert for EAP who plugged their products on air and also for the boat trips out to the Yeoman Rose, sell, sell, sell posters were plastered all over the studio wall as the middle aged DJs played the hits of 1967.

The station had been on the air for around a week when one of the customs and excise boats that did routine patrols along the Essex coast spotted a pirate radio ship anchored off Walton pier and thought they would go and investigate. The men on board the customs boat could not believe their eyes, that an offshore radio ship would have the nerve to anchor so near the shore. These must have been the dumbest customs men in the UK that they hadn't heard of this 28-day offshore station with a licence. All was explained when they boarded the Yeoman Rose and sat down with the skipper of the vessel who explained what was going on.

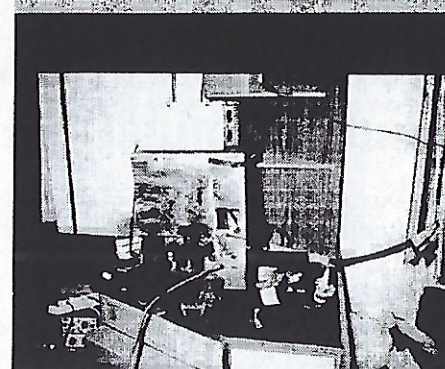


*The ship anchored off the Essex coast.*

Another incident was when the radio investigation service turned up to check out the equipment on board. This was only three days before the station was due to go off the air and they found everything to be in order, although the head engineer did recognise one of the officers as one of the DTI pirate busters of the 70s. He used to case him and the short wave, based **ABC England** crew around the countryside some twenty years before.

On the last day former Radio London DJs **Dave Cash** and **Pete Brady** were due to do shows on the station but for some reason they did not. The final hour of the

original Big L was broadcast between 2-3pm on the station and the transmitter was then switched off. It was planned to have a Caroline revival for the remaining few hours before the station was to close at midnight. Former 60s Caroline men **Roger Day**, **Steve Young**, **Mark Slone** and **Keith Hampshire** were due to do programmes, but this failed to happen, as only Roger Day turned up and the transmitter was switched back on and he did a show until 6pm. From then on EAP's **Ray Anderson** took over and continued until midnight and close down.



*The rig and coax connection to the aerial system.*

Full recognition should go to the engineers that built the station and kept it on the air for the full 28 days, whom without, this revival would not have been as successful as it was.

East Anglia Productions will have to sell many Books, videos, CDs and T-shirts to recover the cost of this project, which is estimated in excess of £20,000.

*All pictures by Tony Randall*



# PIRATE CONNECTION & SRS NEWS

proudly present

## The Free Radio Contest 1998

**Make sure you don't miss the Free Radio competition of this decade!**

- During Easter 1998, your task is to listen to 12 different Free Radio stations according to a pre-determined timetable.
- Some of the most popular and interesting stations, both from the past and present, will be chosen from all corners of Europe. At least half of the broadcasts will be reviving one-offs by legendary Free Radio stations from the 70's and 80's!
- Each received station will give the participant a certain amount of points depending on power, time of day and the transmitting site in relation to the participant's location. The winner is the one gaining most points. A complete set of contest rules will be sent out with the timetable at the end of March.
- There will be lots of fine prizes, including radio equipment, Free Radio T-shirts and free subscriptions to both Pirate Connection and SRS News.

In order to participate, just send \$5/SEK 40 in bank notes (if being a Swedish citizen, you can alternatively transfer SEK 40 to the postal giro account 690708-2710) before April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1998 to the following address:

PIRATE CONNECTION, P.O. Box 4580, 203 20 MALMÖ, SWEDEN

## How to Improve short-wave reception, Part 3

Torenvalk Teknik  
P.O. Box 94  
7038 ZH ZEDDAM  
THE NETHERLANDS

There is still a problem with a bad signal-to-noise ratio, especially on the lower shortwave bands. One band in particular, namely the 76 metre band, is not rarely quite noisy. I have visited many station operators and listeners in different parts of Europe and have learned that the majority that lives in towns or villages has to deal with a high noise-level.

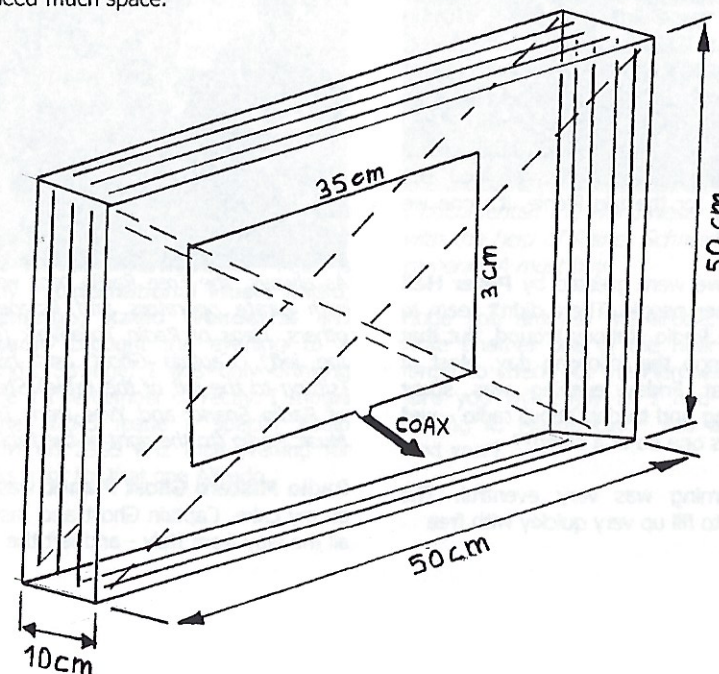
In the former issues of this mag, I have explained some designs for equipment that may help improving reception. But some readers gave me the following comment: "Your article was interesting and it may work very well, but it is a bit too difficult to build." So this time I will give you a more simple design of an antenna that has proven over decades to work very well. In fact, this antenna was one of the first to be used on a large-scale basis in the 20's for mediumwave and longwave reception. One of the main advantages with the antenna is that it doesn't need much space.

### A loop antenna

A loop antenna is a small band aerial consisting of a variable capacitor and a coil of some 5 to 10 turns depending on the frequency you want to listen to. Inside this coil a second coil of just one turn is wound. On both ends of the second coil a coaxial cable is connected that will lead to your receiver. Due to the low impedance output, the coaxial cable may be as long as required allowing you to place the loop for example on the attic whilst your receiver is one floor below.

Since there is no real connection between the primary and secondary coil, the signal given by the loop is depending entirely on the magnetic component of the electromagnetic signal, thus yielding an improved signal-to-noise ratio.

I wish you best luck with the building and a proper reception when using it.





# MERCHWEILER '97

DJ Stevie / Radio 510 Int'l  
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Switzerland  
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Merchweiler can only be described as the best kick around when it comes to free radio. Like very other year, lots of free radio stations and listeners pack their radios, tents and cameras and make their way to this small village hidden in the hills of beautiful Saarland in Germany. Awaiting them are memories that will be remembered for years to come.

This years meeting was very special. Peter Hell, that's the man behind this yearly event, was out in full force greeting all the lucky people who made it to this memorable event. Congratulations were the order of the day as Peter celebrated this, his 25th meeting, in full style. Thanks for having us Peter!!

With my video camera, infosheets and energy - you need plenty of that to stay awake - I set off by train with IMR for our four hour journey to Saarbrücken. Four hours seems far, but not for some of the other stations that made the trip too!! Arriving at Saarbrücken we were met by my very good Internet friend, **Radio Flamingo**. Our 'Free Radio Taxi' arrived late, but that's what you have to expect when **Record Radio** is behind the wheel!! Boy, he even got lost on the way to the camp!! If you ever get a free ride from Record Radio, please take a very big map plus lots of food and drink!! Thanks for the trip Richie, it's one we won't forget.

At the camp we were greeted by **Peter Hell** and a few other people. There didn't seem to be many Free Radio stations around, but that would all change the following day. Most of our time that Friday evening was spent drinking, eating and talking about radio - well what else does one do at a camp??

Saturday morning was very eventful. The camp started to fill up very quickly with free

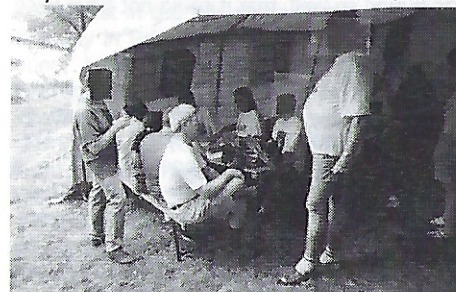
radio stations and people from all over Europe. Meeting the faces behind the microphones was really great. I guess we all have pictures of how station operators look like, but I got mine all wrong!! Here is a list of all the stations that made it to the camp: **Radio Waves International, Star Club Radio, Radio 510 International, Radio Flamingo, Radio Wonderful, Radio Perfect, Radio Dr.Tim, Transatlantic Radio, International Music Radio, Radio Torenvall, Süd West Radio, Radio Power Station, Radio Mistero Ghost Planet, Telstar Radio, Radio Nordsee International, Record Radio and Radio Sparks**. Now that is what I call just great!! Meeting these stations face to face really keeps the Free Radio spirit alive. We all came in peace and left as best of friends. Can't say much for the others who didn't make it due to some stupid fight over who the KING of free radio is!! This sort of nonsense is better kept at home and not brought to meetings.



*As always, the Free Radio tent was crowded with pirate operators and listeners. Among others, Hans of Radio Torenvall (standing to the left), Captain Ghost and his girlfriend (sitting to the left of the table) Steven Willers of Radio Sparks and Yves from International Music Radio (to the right of the table).*

**Radio Mistero Ghost Planet** was the cream on my cake. Captain Ghost and Jasmine drove all the way from Italy - and left the same day!!

Now that is what I call dedication. They both brought a real spark to the camp. You can hear a programme from them in the near future via Radio 510 International. **Transatlantic Radio** and **Radio Torenvall** did the same thing too. They arrived in the early afternoon and departed a few hours later. Meeting Harry of Transatlantic Radio was really neat. He is such a nice person. Tell me boys, did you leave the camp because they didn't have 'frickendella' on the menu??



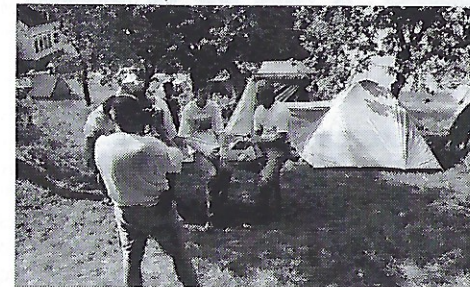
*A veteran in the Free Radio Business is Star Club Radio, the 'big' man standing to the right.*

Myself, **Radio Wonderful** and **Record Radio** were jumping all over the camp making interviews which you can hear via Radio 510 International in the near future. The Free Radio stations were very helpful in making the interviews. You can see most of them in the video that I made. I'll give you more details at the end of the page.

Saturday evening came and went as fast as the two bottles of whisky did!! Lots of chat with **Radio Waves International** - Peter is a super guy - **International Music Radio, Radio Flamingo, Radio Wonderful** and **Record Radio** brought the evening to a drunken end!! Strange, I was only drinking orange juice if I remember correctly. I should mention that IRRS made a special Radio Sparks show on 3955 kHz that evening for free. Thanks a lot for that one Alfredo.

Sunday morning was spent getting the last interviews on tape before our long trip back to Switzerland. Saying goodbye to all the stations, friends new and old took up a lot of time. Maybe it had to do with all the drink from the previous!! I won't mention that Record Radio and his beautiful girlfriend Ruth drank all the stuff!! I really hope to keep in contact with all the stations that I met. It makes every thing all worth while in the end. Try it and see what I mean.

Before I finish writing this article - I could write much more - I would like to say that attending a DX meeting is the best thing around. It really refreshes the mind and keeps the whole idea alive. The more we are heard - even if it's via IRRS - the better we are understood. Who said radio was dead? There is nothing better than listening to a weak signal knowing that it could be one of those operators that you met at Merchweiler. Radio is fun and should be kept that way. Pity that some have to spoil the fun.



*I documented the Merchweiler event on video with the help of Reiner Schneider (behind the camera). A must buy!*

Hope you enjoyed the article. I just might write another one in the near future. Don't forget to check out the Merchweiler video!! I'm sure you will enjoy it. I had so much fun making it. Maybe catch you at Merchweiler next year?



## The Radio Free London raid story of April 20th 1997:

# Hello, Hello, Wots all This 'ere then?

The weekend broadcast of April 20th should have been no different to any other **RFL** weekend on the air, the only exception was that they were using a new site for the first time by the side of the London orbital Motorway the M25.

Over the previous three weeks mains power had been installed and aerials put up by most of the station staff, and on the evening of Saturday April 19th the two transmitters were installed at the new location, and **RFL** came on the air as usual for its third Sunday broadcast. 24 hours later the equipment switched off like it always had done via the time switch that was in line from the main power supply.

Without going into too much detail, a staff member was informed early Monday morning that the equipment had been discovered and it was a pirate radio station and was asked if it had anything to do with **RFL**. *To his horror it was.* As the day went on phone calls were made and the story soon came to light. A member of the public had found the transmitters and thinking it was an IRA bomb telephoned the police. This resulted in a big operation, which closed the M25 for two hours while bomb squad officers inspected the "suspect package". News was given out on **BBC Radio 4** that Sunday evening that the M25 was closed between junctions three and five as the transmitters were at junction four. The station operators believe now that a maintenance worker had found the mains wire while doing a routine inspection of the 'No Entry' sign which the pirates had taken their electricity from. The wire we have been told,

was buried so well, that it could not have been seen by anyone.

After the officers realised that it was only a pirate station, the DTI were called in to remove the equipment and take it away. This included two transmitters, one for 6400 and the other for 3945, plus a twin cassette player, one earth rod, two aerials, two plastic crates, which housed the equipment and about 50 meters of mains, cable. The station had lost everything...or had they?

Later on the Monday afternoon one staff member went to the site and confirmed by phone to other members that everything was gone. It was not until three weeks later that four of the staff went back to the site to have a good look around and recovered a pickaxe and shovel. These had been left at the site and hidden after the mains had been installed and hadn't been discovered by the police during their search.

There are two twists to this tale, which came to light months later. The first was when one of the **RFL** engineers went to Australia for a six-week holiday. While there he made a telephone call to one of the staff and told him that travelling to the airport via the M25 he had seen from the road an aerial at the site where the raid had taken place. This person is known to be a practical joker so no one took it seriously. It was some weeks later when the station staff was out looking for new sites to broadcast from, that they drove past junction four and to their amazement there was an aerial still up at the raided site. The staff members parked the car and went in, but due

to the thickness of the leaves on the Trees it took them five minutes to see and find the aerial, and another ten minutes to find where it had been originally tied off. It must have been hard for the police officers on the night of the raid to find where those aerials had been anchored off to, and also that they must have tried to pull the aerial down by pulling on the coax. But because of a join in the cable this had broken away and the antenna was left up. The aerial was removed by **RFL** staff and taken away to use another day. The second twist in the tale came on the day of a radio rally in Brighton, Sussex. While walking around, two of the staff met with an old London pirate operator from the past that had connections within the DTI who had an amazing story to tell them. According to him, on the day of the raid, Radio Investigation officers from the DTI were out trying to track the broadcasts from **Radio Free London**, but after hours of driving around the M25 they could not seem to pin point its exact location. The reason for this **RFL** were told, was a complaint from Amsterdam in Holland had been received about interference from a pirate radio station which was interfering with reception of information which was being sent and was being received in Holland. No frequency was given to **RFL's** informant but

the general opinion seems to be that it's 6400kHz that's the channel as this is out of band and utility has appeared around 6402kHz, which could be the cause of the problem. The DTI officers were on the point of giving up looking for the transmitters when they saw the aerials from the motorway. But as it was getting late and one of the officers had to be at a dinner and dance party just down the road in Sevenoaks that evening, the decision was made to leave investigating the equipment until the following day. When the site was found and the police moved in, the story goes that the officer who had to be at the party could not make it because the motorway was closed.

The staff and engineers regret the problems that were caused on that evening in April to everyone that was involved in the incident.

**Radio Free London** returned to the air six weeks later on June 1<sup>st</sup>, with their own transmitter and using 90 watts of power. The station has moved away from the popular 6 MHz part of the band to the much clearer 51 metres on a frequency of 5805 kHz.

*The headline is a phrase once used by a British Policeman many years ago.*

### **Crazy Thoughts**, continued from page 23.

discovered during the last Level 48 meeting. If some stations are announcing something different this is not true, or they only attract the bloody QSL-hunters and DX-ers who are interested in the card, not in the programme. Maybe the listeners believe that the operators are not interested in comments anymore, just in having the SINPO. I am not sure if this is also an effect of log-lists published on the Internet and I am not so sure anymore if sending out a log-list without giving comments is helping to improve Free Radio by a better information system. It might also become a kind of sport to log as much as possible, but not listen to programmes anymore. So listeners, do not forget that you have a big influence to operators, but please write down

your comments to the programmes. This is the only way we can see if the audience listening to our programmes understands or tries to understand the purpose of our programmes. Do not put only the SINPO on your reception report. There is and will be a difference between DX-ing and listening to the pirates! Support Free Radio by giving your opinion, not by the SINPO!

That's it for the moment, let's see what happens. I am off for the moment and will have a look from the background – hopefully leaving at least a small gap. Despite all the trouble, waste of time & money, it was all worth it so far.

**Chris**



## FREE RADIO INFO

P.O. Box 520112  
D-44207 Dortmund

## RADIO BUBENFUNK

P.O. Box 220342  
D-42373 Wuppertal

### FREE-RADIO-KONTEST 1997/98

In the time of December, 20<sup>th</sup> 1997-January, 04<sup>th</sup> 1998 the **FREE RADIO INFO** and **RADIO BUBENFUNK** will start their first DX-Kontest.

You must listen out to FR-stations in the frequency-range between 3900-7500 kcs.

Times of Kontest: 20.12.1997, 0000 UTC-04.01.98, 2400 UTC

Frequency-range: 3900-7500 kcs

Price: 10 DM/6\$, outside of Europe 5 IRC

Specials: no QSO-stations!!!

Closing date: 10.01.1998

You can win some nice prices, also you'll get a special diploma. Participants of the Kontest can send their RR's to the FR-Stations via the QSL-Bureau of **FREE RADIO INFO**, that's for „nothing“. But enclose return-postage for the pirates, all the rest is free!!!

Details: yes, we need some details about the programmes you have heard!

Name of the station

Date

Time UTC

Frequency

SINPO-Code

Details of program/15 minutes

For each station you'll get 10 points, for the special broadcasts of **FREE RADIO INFO** or **BUBENFUNK** you'll get 50 Points.

For any questions you can contact us via Hotline, each day in the time between 2000-2200 lokal time, also on saturday/sunday between 1000-2200 lokal time.

Phone/Fax: ++(0)203/494498

Good luck and a lot of fun,

FREE RADIO INFO

RADIO BUBENFUNK

# crazy Thoughts

Chris Ise  
P.O. Box 220342  
42373 WUPPERTAL  
GERMANY

Cheers! After 4½ half years Free Radio passion the circumstances now forces me to reduce, or better to stop action. In general it seems to rule a "reduced" activity within the Free Radio activities at the moment as nothing regular runs in Germany anymore for the time being. On the other hand it is very interesting to see how many "old" stations are putting so much effort into publicity in the mags – although there is nothing heard on air. The ability is missed to elaborate on their own station to reach a higher level, they are satisfied with the status quo: Free Radio operators are showing minimalism. Not much effort is put into a not very clear target. Too many in Europe are only operating an artificial station including a neutral opinion to the present Free Radio activities and discussion, probably neglecting the fact that they are losing their own identity by this neutral behaviour. Or isn't it the own identity a Free Radio station should have nowadays which can be transported over the airwaves?? This is the chance Free Radio stations have compared to the formatted cold legal broadcasters! Only a few operators recognised this in the past and took the consequence for their station as the maximum was reached and stagnation took over. It was really amazing when **Andy Walker** was here to hear that the same is happening in the UK, although the UK has a radio tradition Germany never had. What are the reasons for the stagnation in the Free Radio bands? In my opinion mainly because of the maniacs missing in our hobby, those who put more than their free time into it, those, who are not just thinking on their own station, but try to think about the whole stuff in general. Ego trips do not contribute anything to the present scene to move on forward, they only might cause the opposite. What was the reason why offshore radio went down? The truth is that no one liked to do the basic works anymore,

which hold everything together. Big shots ruled on the mike, big shots called themselves "Manager", but never ever got on the top of the mast or painted the boat. They only used or abused it for own egoistic purposes. In Germany there are only a few people doing the basic works at the moment, many who are dreaming of a radio career in legal radio and using Free Radio as a first step, and many "personalities" who never did the basic works. They are big in theory, but small in praxis. Unfortunately on the other hand there are the listeners who also developed a kind of passivity, probably caused by the legal broadcasters, but mainly because of the fact that too many operator tried to copy a format from legal radio; the same by very limited sources. This might be the easiest way to get a kind of own identity, but ignores the fact that Free Radio is kept alive from developing something unique which cannot be established immediately, but has to grow up slowly by the time. Some might need less time than others, and some might never manage to establish something at their own, but at least the chance to do it exists. The only chance Free Radio will have in the future is to transport this feeling over the airwaves. We do not need personalities who pretend to be important only by their presentation on the mike. We do not need those operators who put so much effort in own publicity. If you are doing the basic work, if you are thinking not only limited for your own station, if you try to keep Free Radio running for the future, then you have the right to be a big mouth. The other way worked only for a short time when offshore radio was on, and only worked for a short time during the last years on shortwave. Offshore radio broke down, the present scene is losing the listeners. All the stations being regular on air at the moment have only low listener response as we

*Continued on page 21.*



# Unexpected visitors Unexpected visitors

*The Raid on Radio Dr. Tim – an interview with the operator*

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For two years the German shortwave pirate scene was not into trouble. Until November 24th, 1996 when police and officers of the BAPT (Bundesamt für Postund Telekom-munikation) paid a visit to Radio Dr. Tim. The authorities raided one of Germany's most active Free Radio stations.

## The Schlager station

What is a *Schlager*? Literally, it is a "hit record", but best known to describe a particular type of German music, similar to Middle of the Road. It is simple, soft, sweet, sometimes stupid. The sort of music housewives and elder people enjoy. For many years, it was usually the Dutch pirates' job to promote these songs on the air. Radio Dr. Tim established that programme format in the German shortwave scene. Schlager and oldies made up most of the station's first broadcast on January 24th, 1993. At first, Dr. Tim entirely relied on relays (e.g. Radio Orang Utan). July 30th, 1995 he successfully tested his own transmitter, made in Holland and said to put out up to 90 watts. Since that day, Radio Dr. Tim frequently visited frequencies in the 48 metre band with his very own style of programme which also includes long loglists and QSOs. One week after the raid a comeback show was aired over the powerful Farmers from Holland transmitter (December 1st, 1996 on 6308 kHz). A provocation, many Free Radio mates thought. **The Farmers** also put out the Christmas programme with taped messages from listeners. In 1997, Dr. Tim took part in some joint ventures such as Radio Petino (together with **Radio Perfekt** and **Radio Nordsee** from Germany). At present, he is back with another own transmitter, mostly using 76 metres.

## The interview:

**For almost 1 1/2 years you were on the air using your own transmitter. How did you consider the risk of getting caught?**

Very low. Almost none.

**What are your memories of that Sunday morning until the officers knocked on your door?**

From 8.10 to 8.25 UTC I put out a promo tape for the programme I had planned for Christmas. Then from 10.20 UTC onwards I relayed a show of **Radio Wonderful**. I left 6235 and moved to 6210 kHz. That channel was absolutely clear at that time. I was on the air for about 20 minutes, and then it happened.

**What came across your mind when you realized your station is just getting raided?**

My very first thought was "fuck, no more broadcasting anymore!"

**How many officers took part in the raid, and how did they behave?**

There were three BAPT officers and two policemen. They were all very friendly and polite, as if they were sorry of what they had to do. The head of the BAPT raiding party even gave me his phone number at the office, and he told me if I had any further questions he would be glad to answer them.

**Did the officers have a search warrant?**

No, they didn't. However, it wouldn't have made sense to deny everything. The officers had recognized the antenna, and the transmitter was still running.

**Did they tell you how long it had taken them to track your station down?**

Well, they monitored me for several weeks. Each time they came closer to my home location. According to the post officers, they would have caught me even if I had transmitted mobile from changing sites. If they want to raid someone, they eventually do so, it just might take a little bit longer.

**Why did they pick your station?**

Of course I raised that question, too. They replied that some people, like for example radio hams, don't like Free Radio stations. As a matter of fact, a few weeks before the raid a radio amateur jammed some pirates on 48 metres, myself and others. I told that station on the air to leave the band as he has nothing to do there. I'm quite sure that the raid has something to do with that incident. It was an action just to hit me, and cannot be regarded as the start of a general campaign to clear the band. The BAPT does not track down stations unless somebody complains. According to the officers, I hadn't caused any interference on the 48 metre band, and there were no problems in my neighbourhood.

**Which equipment was taken?**

Only the transmitter, the modulator and some crystals. The officers told me that they just wanted to stop me broadcasting, and so

they did. If I hadn't been co-operative they might have confiscated all electric gear around here. The transmitter was cut from the mains, they took the aerial, carried it away, that was it! The mixer, tapes, the amplifier, double tape deck, CDs, my receiver and ATU was left untouched.

**What fine do you expect?**

The officers said I'll have to face a rather small fine, if anything at all. Perhaps they might request a statement about my activities. They suggested I should tell it was a boy's prank. Well, I don't care about the fine and how high it might be. What really annoys me is the loss of my transmitter!

**A week after the raid your comeback broadcast made a lot of other stations upset. What do you think about their accusations that your programme was an unnecessary provocation?**

I can't quite understand all that trouble about the show. When the programme was aired, most of the German stations had already heard about the raid and that it was an action just against me. It was not my intention to upset someone, and I'm sure I haven't made the authorities angry, so they would continue raiding stations. If they wanted that, they could have done it long before.

**Join and Enjoy!**  
**PIRATE CONNECTION**  
**Europe's Leading Pirate Radio Magazine**  
**<http://www.ils.se/jal/pc/>**



# The Baltic Interview

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This summer I spent some wonderful days on Gotland – the beautiful island off the Swedish east-coast. It is well-known for its lovely scenery, extraordinary beaches, Visby's ring-wall and the special stones – the sea-stacks. Of course, to some people this island is also famous for being the base of Sweden's longest-running pirate operators, **Bengt Bengtsson**. Until 1994, Bengt had mostly been active on the FM band, but this year he started international broadcasting under the name of **Radio Baltic International**, thus becoming well-known to a wider audience in Europe. The frequency in use was 6206 kHz and a brief period also on 6212 kHz. The broadcasts were mainly relays of the nostalgic Swedish station **Radio Nord** plus a number of other European Free Radio stations and tape pirates.



*Bengt, in front of his studio.*

Visiting Bengt and his house in Othem – about a 40 km drive from the island's capital city Visby – was quite an experience. The first thing that was met by my eyes was a considerable number of scrapped cars. Beyond

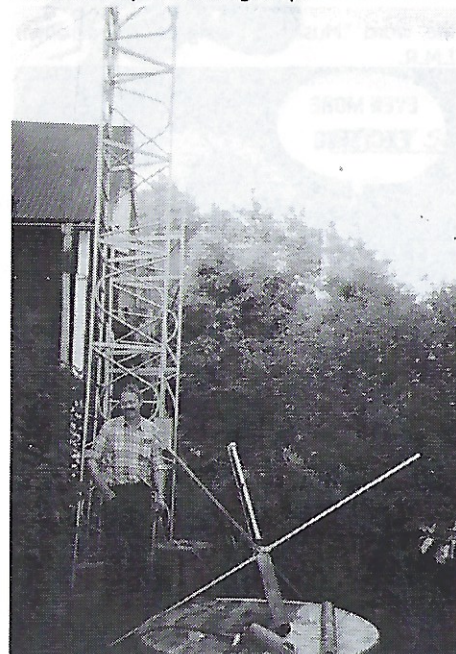
this heap was his small house and his huge, 15 metre high mast with a countless number of different aerals. A short while later, when entering into the garden, I was receiving immediate attention from Bengt's terrifying dog, an Alsatian, which was barking loudly at me. We went into his house and he showed me his studio, transmitters and all the files from the recent legal proceedings. I was a bit curious about what had happened to him and his case the last year, so I took the opportunity to ask him a few questions.

## Could you briefly tell me what has happened with your case since our last story in P.C.?

Well, as you know I was convicted in the District Court. Apparently it was one or two radio colleagues of mine who tipped off about me and wanted to see me stopped. This was done only out of jealousy. Anyway, the fines were about 4,000 SEK. I appealed against the verdict to the Court of Appeal and they brought up the case in December 1995, but the verdict remained unchanged. Then I also went with my case to the Supreme Court in March last year. Unfortunately, they refused to take up the case again, as they thought there were not enough new circumstances to bring up in the case. My last chance was to appeal to Europe's Court of Justice, which I also did, but things are going really slow down there.

## Do you think you have any chances to win there?

Naah...I think the probability is small. It's doubtful they even bring it up.



*The huge mast in Bengt's garden, 15 metres above ground level. On top of it, there are several SW-, VHF-, and satellite aerals.*

## Were you satisfied with your lawyer's work?

Yes, he did what he possibly could do. He really spent lots of efforts into getting to know the case and all technical aspects of it. He even wrote the appeal to the Europe's Court of Justice free of charge.

## The paying-in form for your fines is still in your file! Haven't you paid them?

Of course I haven't! Paying them would mean that I admitted that I have done something wrong, which I believe I haven't.

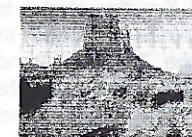
## How have you coped with all this financially? Was it worth all money?

That depends on how you look at it. I have already high debts and that is something I'll

just have to live with. This was my challenge to the Establishment.

## So you sought for a fight?

Yes, I wanted to put the laws of radio and communication to a real test. Article 10 and 14 in the Human Rights say that all people should access freedom of speech regardless of gender, race, colour, language, religion, political belief or opinion, national or social origin, fortune etc. I guess few have been more troublesome than me!



**Bengt Bengtsson**

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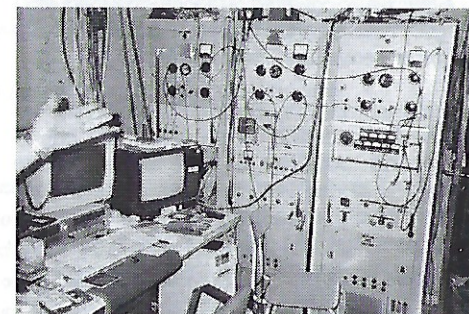
Barshage Othem

620 30 Slite

Tel: 0498-226143 / 070-4689102

## What was the court's standpoint on this?

Despite me referring to those two articles in the Human Rights, they just wouldn't comment on it! They just referred to the law of communication all the time.



*Baltic's FM equipment and end-stages. The most powerful end-stage gives an output of no less than 3 kW!*

## How do you intend to go on now?

Well, I will put my efforts into FM. I have already lots of FM-equipment and I have had good response from the local audience when I was broadcasting on FM. I have had several thousands of listeners and many of them ask me when I will return.



# What's happening to the 76 metre band?

His Master's Voice  
P.O. Box 94  
7038 ZH ZEDDAM  
THE NETHERLANDS

Just like flies cluster to a can of sugar, the mediumwave pirates in Holland have moved to the 76 metre band this year. Is this a good thing? I don't think so. We know that the 185 metre band has been a typical QSO-band for over years while the shortwave bands have offered the listeners with Free Radio programmes, although there has always been some occasional QSOs on these bands as well. I still believe that most Free Radio listeners like to listen to alternative radio programmes and that they don't take care too much about the chats between station operators.

With all the stations coming from medium-wave to the 76 metre band, we can see that this band has now really turned into a QSO-band. Of course, this may be of great interest for the station operators themselves, but where does this put the listener? A few listeners may be pleased with this movement, because it has enabled them to hear even weak-powered stations they couldn't hear before when they were still on the power-demanding mediumwave.

It is true that the 76 metre band usually had Free Radio activity in the weekends only - now it's possible to hear one or more stations almost every evening. Unfortunately this doesn't mean that the band is open for stations that like to bring real Free Radio during the weekend. On the contrary we can hear not less than half a dozen stations QSO-ing on the 76 metre band on man Saturday evenings.

Now that a number of QSO stations have turned to single-side band modulation (SSB) instead of AM, I can't help but thinking that they should get an official license and turn to the official 80 or 40 metre band where they can chat all day long. When I hear stations like **I.M.R.**, I wonder what on earth this has to do with Free Radio. I also wonder what

the word "Music" is doing in the acronym I.M.R.



Let's just hope that not all these stations will move once again from the 76 metre band to the 48 and 41 metre band. If these bands became "QSO-bands" too, I'm afraid this would mean the end of international Free Radio as we have known it.

Dear readers, I hope this will open a discussion again on this subject, because I'm sure that not everybody will agree with this. So I look forward to hearing your reactions.



## Radio 510 International

### RELAY SERVICE 1997

- Station:** via IRRS in Milano, Italy.
- Power:** 10 kW AM
- Target Area:** Europe and North Africa
- Relay Times:** Every Sunday evening at 21.00 CET for one hour only on 3985 kHz. Repeats might be heard mid-week depending on space availability.
- Programme:** 58 minutes (= one hour) recorded on a 60 minute tape. Sorry, but we can't return used tapes!!
- Relay Price:** \$ 40 or DM 70 for a one hour show. We don't accept half hour shows. Send cash (bank notes) with your tape or use our post account number: 49-307681-4 under the name Radio Sparks. Money is sent at own risk!!
- Address:** Radio 510 International, P.O.Box 510,4010 Basel, Switzerland.

All stations which are relayed via us, will be looked after in a very professional way. Firstly, we check your programme to make sure that its contents are in agreement with our contract. Your tape is then sent onto Milano via registered post - we don't take any chances !! Next, IRRS is contacted, and your programme is put on our schedule. The next job, and most important of all, is to give your programme a huge boost before it comes on air. With the help of the Internet, listeners and clubs will know where to listen at the right time. We have contacted many legal/non-legal stations all over the entire planet via Internet and snail mail - we really have gone mad !! - to let them know that we are here, and can offer excellent programmes. Don't forget that most radio stations have got their own DX programmes which are heard by thousands of keen DXers. If all goes according to plan, more listeners should be sending in their reception reports. Now it's only up to you to make sure that your show is well produced and return post is answered as quick as possible. We sincerely hope that the amount of listeners increases with time. Don't forget to let us know how many reports you receive for your shows !!



# On the Level

**Andy Walker**  
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I had never been to Holland in all of my 37 years, every other country in Europe but not the Netherlands. So while I was taking a week's holiday in Germany staying with **Chris Ise** of CWR fame, a meeting of the operators of Level 48 had been planned in Holland over the weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> August. We left Chris's home and travelled to the QTH of **Jens Martin** operator of Radio Benelux and main man behind **Level 48**, Europe's biggest free radio network. The journey continued with Jens at the wheel and a two-hour drive to the home of **Radio Spaceman**, one of Holland's most powerful operators. On arrival we unloaded the 80 bottles of beer and German sausages, which we had brought with us for the Saturday night barbecue and piss up and started talking about radio, it wasn't long before the beers were opened and the drinking commenced.

After a few hours Mr. Spaceman took us out to his radio shack and showed us his set-up. We had a quick tune-up and down the dial on 76 meters and we heard **Radio Dr. Tim** calling CQ for any stations listening and was asking for a QSO. Spaceman jumped to his feet and said "We go on the air". The power switch was turned on and adjustments were made to the large professional transmitter, which dominated the room. Spaceman leaned under the bench and flicked a switch: "Now we have power" he said. It was decided to play a joke on Dr. Tim and I was to have a QSO with him. The joke was to be that I was in London testing a new transmitter and aerial system, this I did and by the response I got from Dr. Tim he believed this and told me my signal was a S5. On my second copy I told him that his power seemed very low and told him to turn it up and that reception of his station was poor in London! By this point Jens, Chris and Spaceman were rolling around with laughter. It was decided that each of us was to QSO

with Dr. Tim and the frequency of the rig was changed to make it look like it was not coming from the same location. Each of the others gave the doctor a bad report which had him at one point going outside to check his aerial. This he told us on the air and again we burst into fits of laughter. Spaceman, Benelux, CWR and myself all had a QSO with the doctor and he never realised we were all at the same QTH even though our signals were an S5 every time.

After a few hours sleep and some breakfast I was taken on a short tour of some of the local operators in the area. The first stop was **Radio Santana**, from there we went to **Radio Boomerang** where we started drinking again. I had heard a lot about the high power set-ups some of the operators have but I had to see it with my own eyes to believe that everything I had been told in the past was true.

When we returned to Spaceman's the barbecue was put on and we had some of the fine German sausages and of course some more beer while we waited for the other invited guests to arrive. An old German Free Radio voice was the first to arrive, **Steve Knight** who had recently revived Radio Atlantis on 76 meters. He showed us the mail he had received and we talked about the current scene which soon lead in to a heated discussion about those who do programmes but do not go and help the setting up and broadcasting of the shows (*see Walkers Witterings*). Boomerang and Borderhunter soon joined us, and a great evening of eating, drinking and Free Radio talk was had by all.

It was getting late when **Radio Torenvall** arrived, even though he is part of the Level 48 team he had gone to the Merchweiler camp for the day to spend time with the handful of smaller operators who were atten-

ding the event. This I thought was strange as most of the well-known and professional operators were at the Level meeting (*call me a cynic if you wish*). He didn't stay long and soon after he had left, the powerful Spaceman transmitter was switched on and Level 48 came on the air for a two hour transmission with announcements in German, Dutch, Flemish and English on 3925kHz. The transmission ended at around 03.10 and after another beer I crashed out at 04.00.

A few hours later when I got up, I found Spaceman laying on his couch in the living room and asked him how was his head. He replied it doesn't hurt while he's lying down which had me bursting into laughter, which wasn't good, because my head hurt also. Space-lady made us breakfast and we were soon joined by Borderhunter who had shared a room with Steve Knight. When asked if he slept well, Borderhunter said he (Mr Knight) made strange noises in his sleep like a sound of a motorbike, which again had us in fits of laughter. Fresh pots of coffee were made every 15 minutes and once Jens and Chris

had risen the task of clearing up the empty bottles of beer that littered the garden and studio got underway. Borderhunter left soon after breakfast, as he had to be on the air on an FM pirate in Belgium. Around noon Spaceman decided to do a test on 48 meters and spent an hour fine tuning his long wire aerial so he could load the transmitter. This he managed to do and a short transmission took place with a power of 250 watts on 6290kHz.

By late afternoon we had loaded the car, and after saying our goodbyes we left on the long drive back to Germany. At Jens Martin's home the schedule for the end of year broadcast was put down on paper with around 18 Free Radio stations taking part broadcasting across three different frequencies on the 48 and 76-meter bands.

A great weekend was had by all, with people from different countries who get together twice a year for Europe's biggest Free Radio co-operation, that is "**Level 48**".

*Andy Walker*

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FREE RADIO INFORMATION  
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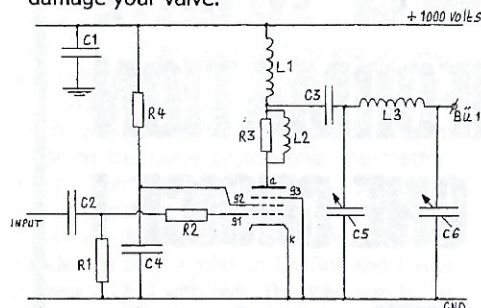


## How to build a shortwave transmitter, part 3

In this issue we will focus on the last stage that is likely to give you some 100 watts of power depending on the power supply you use.

The signal from the second valve (the EL84) will be put into the first grid of a PL519. This valve will amplify the power up to 100 W or more. The reasons for using a PL519 is that it is an easy-to-get valve, because it has been used in colour-TV set for many years and can be obtained by removing it from an old TV-set. It is also available in electronic shops.

The filament of the PL519 is 40 V at 300 mA, this can be D.C. or A.C. The plate voltage can be anything between 200 and 1000 V and should be able to give at least 200 mA. Remember that the higher the voltage, the higher the output. But never make any attempts to exceed 1000 V as this will damage your valve.

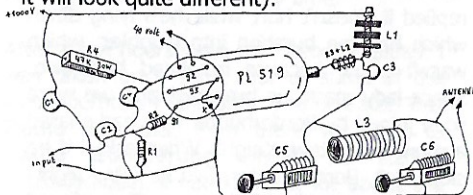


These are the components:

- R1 = 4.7 k $\Omega$  5 W wire-wound
- R2 = 47  $\Omega$  2 W (not wire-wound)
- R3 = 47  $\Omega$  2 W (not wire-wound)
- R4 = 47 k $\Omega$  30 W wire-wound
- C1 = 1000 pF 1000 V ceramic
- C2 = 1000 pF 4000 V ceramic
- C3 = 1000 pF 4000 V ceramic
- C4 = 2000 pF 4000 V ceramic
- C5 = 150 pF variable large blade distance

- C6 = 500 pF variable
- L1 = R.F. choke 200 mH 200 mA
- L2 = 5 turns of 1 qm over R3
- L3 = 14 turns 2.5 qmm at a length of 110 mm and a diameter of 45 mm
- Bü1 = SO239

This is how it looks (remember that in reality it will look quite different):

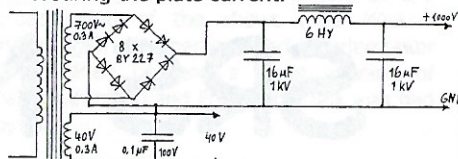


Special attention should be given to the components. They all should be designed for handling high voltages and a large amount of HF power.

Note:

- Always allow the valve to heat for some minutes before switching on the plate voltage.
- Never switch on the last stage when the oscillator is not working.
- Tune C5 and C6 for minimum plate current and maximum output.

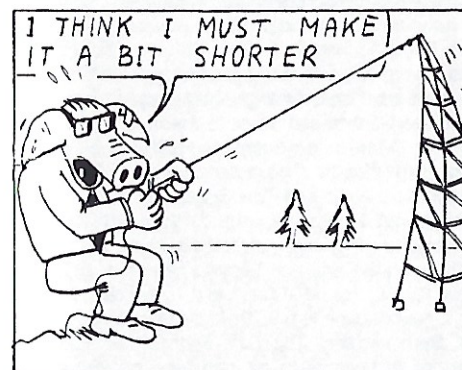
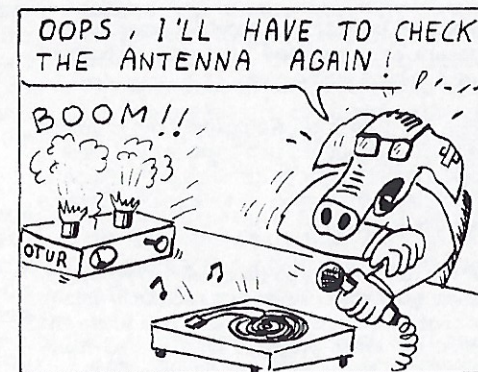
This is the diagram of the power supply. Don't forget to use a mA-meter for measuring the plate current.



In the next issue, we will look at the modulator.

Torenvalk Teknik.

## Torenvalk QSL Comic







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Welcome back after a hopefully great summer season. There are a few "new" applications that I want to bring up this time.

One is the good old **Netscape!** Now in version 4.01! The layout has sure improved and there is also a possibility for all members of the house to run "their own" version, as Netscape has become a multi-user-system!

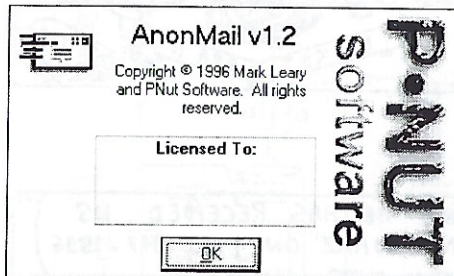
If you run Windows 95 (or equal Macintosh) with some good power inside (not necessarily Intel!), a huge hard-disc and don't really care where and what the install programs does to your hard-ware, then please install it!

The only disadvantages I've found so far are:

- You can't download an image by double-clicking on the image-icon.
- The layout is too close to MS I. Explorer.
- The newsgroup-section is as bad as before.

But if you can live that, download and install. It will occupy around 12 Mb of your hard-disc.

Another nice program is one called **AnonMail** from P-Nut Software. Their last version of this program has number 1.2. They can be found at <http://www.pnutsoftware.com>



The purpose of using this program is that you can send almost anonymous letters via almost any mail-server around the world.

What I mean by "almost", is that if you send a letter to someone and he really wants to track you down, then it's no problem. But, there is something more. You might remember the old anon.penet.fi address? Yes, that address was some kind of re-mailer, and there are more of them out there. The AnonMail 1.2 comes with

the function to forward your letters via one of those special "re-mailer-servers". The only thing is that you must have a paid version! But everything can be solved, if you know what I mean!

Another program that you can't live without if you are an operator is **WinWeather!** With this program you can get information about the weather across Europe. And if you see that there are heavy thunderstorms around Europe, then you better stay off air! Just to save your equipment. This program can be found at <http://www.igsnet.com/>, have fun!

And then I have to inform you all that **Onda Caliente** has closed down their homepage, so if you have any links to that page, please remove them.

If you are constructing homepages, you sometimes want to add music to them. And what you have today is crap-sounding MIDI and huge AU or WAV-files to choose between. I will not mention Real Audio and True Speech as they are definitely not high quality standards. But now two new Plug-Ins have reached all music lovers out there on the Internet. Yamaha has developed a new Plug-In for MIDI-files, and I can tell you that it sounds wonderful! Their system is called **Soft Synthesizer**. The Soft Synthesizer uses advanced technology to off-load tone generator processing onto the computer's high-efficiency CPU, which lets you use software to play music even without a dedicated sound device. You will find more information at <http://www.yamaha.co.uk/> about the software. Another great Plug-In is the MOD-player. And it handles a lot of different music modules like XM, SM3 etc., etc. This one can be found at <http://www.castlex.com/modplug/>, and this one will give you the opportunity to have much more and better music on your web. There are quite a few MOD-files out there, and pay attention to the copyright! If there is any.

That's it for this time, questions and suggestions could be sent to [pcgi@srs.pp.se](mailto:pcgi@srs.pp.se). Until next time, CU! **Jonny @ SRS**

W  
M  
R  
F  
I  
N  
E  
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It's a satisfying feeling to know we now have a third Free Radio band here in Europe on 5 MHz, and that myself and the other RFL boys have been behind starting it. Although other stations did do many tests down there many years ago in the early 90s, they did not stay there and continue with regular broadcasts. We started tests with only 12 watts of power and had very good results throughout our listenership in Europe back in April.

It may be big headed for me to say that it had to be a station like RFL to do it, but I am only echoing what others have said. It took a lot of balls for us to move from the well-established 6 MHz band, but others have now started to join us down there. This proves my point of what I said on the air a few weeks ago that "There are leaders and there are followers", and the likes of **Ozone, Union, XTC** and the mighty **WMR** from Scotland are now broadcasting on the 51 meter band. We are the Shepherds and they are the Sheep!

After my last article in PC 17 about the raid on **Radio Dr. Tim**, I had a letter from the Doctor himself, but the strange thing was it was written in German. Strange because my piece was written in English! Even though I went to the trouble to have it translated so I could read what he said, I do not have any intention in replying to it unless he rewrites again, this time in English (which after all is the international language) and sends it to me again. In a nutshell, the letter said I was wrongly informed and he was not raided because of interference and I do not know what I am talking about. If this is the case then why did I foresee the raid on "The Farmers" only a few weeks later? What Dr. Tim does not realize is that I know everything, and in my 22 years of pirate broadcasting I have learned a lot which the good Doctor might also learn when he has been around on the FR scene longer.

I have seen a lot of mail recently at RFL, and other operators' letters as well, about the lack of real programming on the 76 meter band. The listeners have been writing complaining about the high amount

of QSO stations that use the airwaves as a public telephone system and ruin the output of those stations that want to do real programmes. I believe that most stations QSO because when they do real programming they get a very low response from the listeners for their music shows. This is because the output is rubbish and the listeners know it, and therefore do not write in, so to justify using their equipment they QSO. I would like to see the offering stations move up the band to around 4100kHz or higher, so they at least do not interfere with those that want to do professional shows on the 3900-3945 part of the band.

It's amazing that the amount of regular pirate stations on the air every weekend who are operated by someone else, i.e. stations that come from Ireland and those that are relayed by other operators, there must be about six or seven that I can think of. Some set up their transmitters in Ireland and have someone put it on air and change tapes, some just get straightforward relays via another stations transmitter to broadcast their programmes. There is nothing wrong with anyone doing this but it does make me wonder why some people would take the easy option and not do it themselves but let others take the risk, money is a good answer, but not every operator gets paid.

There are also many presenters who also record programmes and have their shows broadcast by others, but never get involved in helping to put out the transmission and some won't even go near a transmission site, but they still call themselves Free Radio people. These people I believe are the scum of the pirate world, the ones who want the on air glory, but do not, or will not go to the site to help out with the broadcast. How can these idiots call themselves Free Radio people when all they are just ego tripping dick-heads who sit at home listening to themselves and jacking off! Shame on everyone of you.

Well I hope I've pissed off a few of you and I look forward to the hate mail.